

MRC *Courier*

The Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

Summer 2012

Come to Indianapolis!!

Summer brings a lot of excitement in the Midwest - pools, barbecues, lighting bugs. Of course, summer wouldn't be complete without the Association of Midwest Museums Conference!

The 2012 AMM Conference, *Civic Engagement and Public Discourse: The Role of Museums in the 21st Century*, running from July 23-26 in downtown Indianapolis, promises something for everyone, offering nearly fifty different sessions, outstanding keynote speakers, behind-the-scenes tours, and numerous social events. There are so many opportunities, it may be difficult to choose!



Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center. Image courtesy of the Indiana Historical Society



*Indianapolis Cultural Trail
Image courtesy of the ICT*



*Canal Walk
Image courtesy of the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Bureau*

AMM has just announced an extension to the Early Bird Registration rate. Through July 13th, participants can join in on the excitement of the conference for the discounted rate. For more information, the preliminary conference program, and the registration form or online link, visit the Association of Midwest Museums 2012 Conference website at http://www.midwestmuseums.org/conf_links.html.

The *MRC Courier*, published quarterly, is the Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee. Members and Vendors, please submit news, articles, announcements, photographs, and ideas for future issues to Jamie Merkel, Assistant Collections Manager, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology

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FROM THE CHAIR

▪ *Submitted by Ann Sinfield* ▪

Lucky for me, the American Association of Museums Conference was within easy driving distance this year. So in late April I hopped on a bus and headed to Minneapolis for a few days. In between excellent sessions on security, collections hazards, copyright, digital images, and changing conservation guidelines, I attended my first RC-AAM board meeting, coordinated a table on career development at the RC Marketplace of Ideas, talked with vendors about potential sponsorships, met many new people, put faces to names from listservs, and actually ran into a colleagues who I hadn't seen in 10 years. Those were some jam-packed days, not only completely fun but also incredibly helpful.

The big news from the RC-AAM is twofold: a newly elected board, and an uncertain future. The good news is that three-fourths of the new RC-AAM executive board are Midwesterners: Chair Jane MacKnight, Cincinnati Museum Center; Vice Chair Angela Stanford, The Danish Immigrant Museum; and Treasurer Jackie Hoff, Science Museum of Minnesota (Terri Carnes, Museum of Texas Tech University, completes the board as Secretary). Congratulations (and thanks) to all of these MRC members who are now serving on the national level! You represent us well.

While the new board is good news for us in the region, the restructuring of AAM, and the elimination of SPCs, has resulted in an uncertain direction for the Registrars Committee. One immediate impact is the end of regional grants: this year the RC was unable to fund an MRC travel stipend. Watch for additional changes within AAM, including membership structure, conference proposal submissions, and overall branding. Let's hope that support



for museum collections professionals remains an integral part of the national organization.

State representatives:

We have a new state representative for Missouri. Lacy Bettcher, Museum Cataloger at the Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City, is our new state representative for Missouri! She can be reached at lacy.bettcher@gmail.com. Welcome Lacy!

Also, due to Laura Henderson's pending retirement (Congratulations, Laura!), we are hoping for a new Ohio state rep to start sometime during the summer. If you are interested in providing news and updates for the *Courier* newsletter, compiling an annual report with an overview of grants, events, programs, and other activities in your state, encouraging applications for \$750 travel stipends, and having access to \$200 in support of state workshops, please contact me or any of the other state reps for more info.

And speaking of workshop support, the MRC is funding the food at this year's *Registrars' Roundtable on the AAM Accreditation Process*, June 25, 2012, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Organized by Angela Riedel, CMU Museum of Cultural and Natural History, Roberta Frey Gilboe, Cranbrook Art Museum, and Michigan MRC state rep Robin Goodman, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, this is an on-going forum that provides affordable networking and educational opportunities for Michigan collections professionals.

AMM:

The Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference will be held in Indianapolis on July 23-26. The Indiana team has been working very hard to bring you an excellent conference. Not only will there be multiple collections sessions, but also scheduled are behind-the-scenes tours, a free workshop, and a Mighty Rescue Crew (our fourth). The MRC annual breakfast meeting will be again sponsored by Huntington T. Block, and a late

evening event will be sponsored by Willis Fine Art, Jewelry & Specie. Check the program, the MRC Facebook page, or elsewhere in this newsletter for details about these events.

I am pleased to announce the recipients of three travel stipends for attendance at the AMM meeting this year:

- The Terry Dowd, Inc. Annual Stipend is awarded to Tish Boyer, Collections Manager at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.
- The MRC Annual Stipend is awarded to Elizabeth Frozena, Registrar at the Racine Art Museum, Racine, Wisconsin.
- The MRC Stipend, funded by US Art, is awarded to Robin Goodman, Registrar at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting these awards!

In Indianapolis I will end my tenure as MRC Chair. As I try to fill our slate of state representatives and wrap up other loose ends for the incoming chair, I've been reflecting on how rewarding this organization has been for me. The last four years have not been great economic times for this region, but we have maintained consistently strong support from our sponsors. This last year has brought some confusing news from the national organization, but within the region our members have remained active, they are organizing workshops, presenting at conferences, and taking on new leadership positions. I find these actions so inspiring. I hope you do, too, and that you will continue to find this organization as valuable and significant to your professional development as I have.

See you in Indianapolis!

GUEST CHECK				
Date	Table	Guests	Server	Check Number
7-26	35	YOU		323811
<p>Hungry for More?!?</p> <p>Join MRC at Patachou on the Park in Indianapolis for a delicious breakfast sponsored by Huntington T. Block.</p> <p>Space is limited!!</p> <p>Contact Amy McKune for information or to make a reservation!</p> <p>amckune@eiteljorg.com</p>				
			Tax	
Thank You			Total	

FROM THE EDITOR

▪ *Submitted by Jamie Merkel* ▪

Dear friends and fellow museum workers,

As I submitted our third year annual report for the rehousing project I am currently working on at the Museum, it occurred to me that this chapter in my life is truly coming to a close. Three years ago this fall I was hired by the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology to rehouse their Ethnobotanical collection. This was no small undertaking, as the Ethnobotany Lab at the Museum is the oldest in the country and the collection is comprised of some 35,000 objects.

For those of you who are interested in the more historical side of museum history, the Ethnobotany Lab at the University of Michigan was developed by Melvin Gilmore, an ethnologist who was born in Nebraska, had a doctorate in botany, and did much of his field work among American Indian tribes that were settled in the Great Plains in the early 20th century. In 1929 Dr. Gilmore left his position at the Heye Museum of the American Indian and became the Curator of Ethnology at the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology. It was at this time that he founded the Ethnobotany Lab, as well as ethnobotanical gardens on the U of M campus, and encouraged many other museums to do the same.

Melvin Gilmore is considered one of the great forerunners in the development of Ethnobotany as a discipline. He inspired many anthropologists and other museum professionals to conduct ethnographic fieldwork among many of the American Indian tribes in this country. Some of this information and data has since been accessed and utilized in recent times to help augment native language and culture revitalization programs.



The collections in the Ethnobotany Lab are comprised of archaeobotanical, ethnographic, and comparative specimens. Over the past three years I have rehoused the bulk of the collection and in the process I have discarded innumerable film canisters and cork-topped vials, cleaned via tweezers and vacuum hundreds of ears of corn, and reorganized 3700+ vials and boxes of seeds. I have also trained and supervised 12 student workers, all of whom have been very sweet and have been excited for the opportunity to work in a museum and learn about collections management.

My project officially ends in fall, and as I have yet to know if my position at the U of M will continue or not (and what precisely my future will look like as a result), I have decided to resign as Editor of the *MRC Courier*. It has been just under two years since I took on the position, but I have truly enjoyed getting to know all of the wonderful museum professionals that live and work in the Midwest, and

I sincerely thank each and every one of you for taking the time to write articles, submit juicy tid-bits of news, and spread the general love for working in a museum! Tamara Lange is currently taking over the editorship of the *Courier*, but as she already does the design layout for the *Courier*, this is a huge undertaking and it would be really wonderful if someone else would step up and try on their hat as Editor. Anyone who is potentially inter-

ested and would like to find out more can contact me or Ann Sinfield.

All the Best,
Jamie Merkel

American Association of Museums 2012 Conference Summary: Through the Eyes of a Couple MRC Members

▪ *Submitted by Laura Muessig and Jackie Hoff* ▪

MRC members fortunate enough to attend this year's annual AAM meeting at the Minneapolis Convention Center from April 30th to May 2nd know that it was a great time for collections professionals – lots of diverse and interesting conference attendees, stimulating presentations, cool giveaways in the Exhibit Hall, generous amounts of naughty but nice food, and many great opportunities to connect (or re-connect) with colleagues from around the country and world.

Following a successful Reinforcement Crew effort on Saturday April 28th spearheaded by a hardy group of volunteers, the conference kicked off on Sunday April 29th with a meeting of the National Registrars Committee (RC-AAM) Board. At that meeting, the new incoming officers of RC-AAM were announced – and three of the four are from the Midwest Region! They are Chair Jane McKnight (Cincinnati Museum, Center Senior Registrar), Vice Chair Angela Stanford (Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, Curator

of Collections/Registrar), and Treasurer Jackie Hoff (Science Museum of Minnesota, Director of Collections Services). Yea, Midwest!

Sunday afternoon offered four sessions related to collections: "Collections Conundrums," online access issues, security issues, and lending protocols, plus the RARIN Open Forum. All this was capped off by the infamous nighttime Shipper's Party in the Minneapolis Warehouse District – great food, great music, great company, and even aerialists and acrobats (to remind us what we do at work every day!).

Monday April 30th brought sessions related to collection challenges and hazards, an awesome Huntington Block luncheon at a rollicking Italian restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, RC-AAM participation in the "Collaboration and Education" themed Marketplace of Ideas, and the opening of the RC-AAM space in the Exhibit Hall.

This year the RC-AAM's Exhibit Hall space was coordinated by Laura Muessig, Registrar

of Collections at the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis. The area was staffed by a great group of generous, charming volunteers, many not surprisingly from the Midwest Region. This year RC-AAM was encouraged by AAM conference designers not to have its own separate booth or kiosk, but instead to occupy a corner of the AAM Showcase area at the center of the Exhibit Hall. The space was a “slimmed-down” version of what you may have seen in years past. The emphasis this year was on conversation and networking with colleagues, not handouts and giveaways. Even so, the RC-AAM’s purple tote bags and MRC tape measures were hot items, going fast over the three days that the Exhibit Hall was open.

Tuesday May 1st began with a morning network hour between collections colleagues and curators, followed by sessions related to loan transactions, changing conservation guidelines, web access, and disaster protocols. The annual RC-AAM business meeting luncheon was well attended, as usual, and included an appearance by AAM President Ford Bell. Annual report presentations were made by the outgoing RC-AAM officers, RC-AAM’s many generous sponsors were acknowledged,

awards were announced, and much good food was consumed. The outgoing officers talked about AAM’s decision to change the way that committees, including the RC-AAM, are funded and supported (no more separate RC-AAM dues). This was a hot topic at Sunday’s RC-AAM board meeting as well as Tuesday’s business luncheon.

Tuesday also saw the RC-AAM’s Roundtable of Ideas session, and the Emerging Museum Collections Professionals Reception hosted by Gwen Bitz, Registrar emeritus at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and RC-AAM’s new National Mentoring Chair.

Wednesday May 2nd brought more conference sessions. Topics included non-accessioned collections, data and image access, and provenance research. Willis Insurance sponsored a fabulous, elegant luncheon at a Mexican restaurant in downtown Minneapolis.

All in all it was a full, busy conference rich with opportunities for networking, learning, and new friends. Minneapolis at its best. On to Baltimore, and a diet, next year!

MRC Social at AMM Conference

Looking to enjoy time with colleagues? Take a break from conference sessions and join us for an end-of-day gathering at Claddagh Irish Pub on Tuesday, July 24th from 8:30 to ?. Just a short walk from the Conference Hotel, Claddagh is located at 234 S. Meridian Street, in the shadow of Lucas Oil Stadium.

No limits on attendance, but RSVPs appreciated!
Amy McKune @ amckune@eiteljorg.com

Generously sponsored by Willis Fine Art, Jewelry and Specie.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Illinois

▪ Submitted by Amy Heggemeyer ▪

Smart Museum of Art, Chicago

Exhibitions:

From the Land of the Morning

Calm: Traditions of Korean Art

July 5, 2012 to September 9, 2012

Organized around the themes of craft, Buddhism, scholarly art, and modernity, this exhibition offers a focused look at key components of Korea's complex history of cross-cultural exchange and assimilation. It is the first major exhibition to showcase the Smart's diverse collection of Korean art, and includes rare and exquisite works in a variety of media – calligraphy, ceramic, metalwork, painting, and sculpture– dating from the Bronze Age to the present day.



Yeesookyung, **Translated Vases**
2007

Image compliments of the Smart Museum of Art



Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910)

Standing Bodhisattva

Late 16th/early 17th century

Image compliments of the Smart Museum of Art

**Lincoln Home National Historic Site,
Springfield**

Exhibitions:

*150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act
Travelling Exhibit*

July 15, 2012 to September 1, 2012

The Homestead Act of 1862 was one of the most significant and enduring events in the history of the United States. Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 after the secession of southern states, this Act turned over vast amounts of the public domain to private citizens. By granting 160 acres of free land to claimants, it allowed nearly any man or woman (yes, women could stake claims!) a chance to live the American Dream. 270 million acres, or 10 percent of the area of



Daniel Freeman homestead

the United States, was claimed and settled under this Act. The first claim was made on January 1, 1863 by Daniel Freeman. The traveling exhibition was developed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the event.

Indiana

▪ *Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen* ▪

Newsie Bits from Across Indiana

The Indiana State Museum and Indiana State Museum Foundation announce the hiring of a new Vice President of Development and Marketing, Santina C. (Tina) Sullivan, of Indianapolis.

Indiana Landmarks has hired Sharon Gamble as vice president of development. She most recently served as managing director of the Phoenix Theatre and is the longtime host of WFYI's "The Art of the Matter."

Bryce Bennett, Jr. has been elected chairman of the Board of the Arts Council of Indianapolis.



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lis. He is a co-founder of Indianapolis-based Riley Bennett & Egloff LLP.

The Indiana State Museum has announced the discovery of a new T. C. Steele painting. Steele's "The Old Garden" was sent to Barry Bauman, a Chicago conservator, to be cleaned and re-stretched. While removing the painting he found hidden behind it a landscape dating to 1890 depicting two buildings, a clock tower and a small, female figure wearing a red bonnet. The announcement of the new discovery was made at Steele's Brown County studio near Belmont, Indiana.

The Waynedale, Indiana home of Miami Indian Chief Jean Baptiste de Richardville, the akima Pinšiwā Awiiki, has been named a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior. The home is a rare surviving example of a treaty house in the U.S., built as part of the terms of the 1826 Treaty between the Myaamia (Miami) and the United States. The home is maintained by the History Center in Fort Wayne. For more information about the designation, visit www.nps.gov/nhl.

The RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum has found new financial life. A restructured deal eases current financial pressures and puts the Museum on a path to long-term stability, thanks primarily to the generosity of longtime benefactor Boots Ingram (deceased) and family, according to Chairman of the Board Bill Garpow.

Ernie Pyle World War II Museum, Dana News:

The Friends of Ernie Pyle have taken possession of the WWII reporter's birthplace property from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana State Museum. In its first order of business as new owner, the organization renamed the site the Ernie Pyle World War II Museum.

The Friends of Ernie Pyle, a nonprofit organization, has been operating the site under a special arrangement with the State since late summer of 2010 pending the property transfer after the State closed several historic sites in 2009 due to shrinking state revenues.

Cynthia Myers, president of the Friends of Ernie Pyle, said the organization is happy to finally have full control of the property and plans to maintain it as a museum. Myers said renaming the site reflects the Friends of Ernie Pyle's intent to broaden the scope of the Museum and make it a place where visitors can come to learn more about World War II and the generation of American men and women who fought in it.



Ernie Pyle with Marines bound for Okinawa

"Primarily, the Museum will always exist to honor and commemorate Dana's native son, Ernie Pyle," Myers said. "But we also want to use this special place to honor all WWII veterans and their place in history. We think Ernie would have wanted it that way."

Ernie Pyle was on assignment as a war correspondent when he died on April 18, 1945, after being struck by a Japanese machine gunner's bullet on Ie Shima, a small island near Okinawa in the South Pacific. He was 44 years old.

Do you have exhibitions, events, acquisitions, or other news to share? Please let your State Representative or Jamie know! See the listing of MRC Board Members and State Representatives for contact information.

Iowa

▪ *Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik* ▪

Old Jail Museum, Dubuque

Exhibitions:

CSI: Dubuque, Community Search & Investigation

The Dubuque County Historical Society's new exhibition aims to answer the many mysteries and urban legends of our City's founder and namesake, Julien Dubuque. *CSI Dubuque: Community Search and Investigation* is an original exhibition developed by the Historical Society that will display throughout the summer at the Old Jail Museum—a National Historic Landmark.

Visitors will have the opportunity to investigate the true history surrounding our city's founding father, Julien Dubuque, born 250 years ago this year. Artifacts, images, interactive audio, and historic documents help present the most complete picture of Dubuque's life. Visitors can examine forensic evidence, hear eyewitness accounts, and compare statements to draw their own conclusions.



CSI: Dubuque also includes the first and only scientific depiction of Julien Dubuque. The image is based on real physical evidence and was created by renowned forensic artist Karen

Taylor. Taylor has collaborated with several police departments throughout the country; she is most well-known for her work with the Discovery and History Channels and on television shows like Cold Case and the CSI series.

Did Julien Dubuque really look like Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett, as we have so often seen in the past? Join the *CSI: Dubuque, Community Search and Investigation* to find out!

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

2012 Workshops:

Sowing Stories, Reaping Meaning: Developing an Interpretive Strategy for your Site

Why is interpretation important, and how do you go about creating an interpretation strategy at your site that links to your larger themes and mission? Learn how to implement interpretive tools at your site through the use of a new manual created by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. Each participant will receive a copy of the manual, which contains hands-on worksheets along with supplemental information on the art of interpretation and interpretive planning.

July 26: 1-3pm

Iowa Transportation Museum
829 Spring Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

August 8: 10-12am

Farm House B&B
2866 270 St.
HWY 18 E
Fredericksburg, Iowa 50630

This is a free workshop and pre-registration is not required. For more information visit: si-losandsmokesatcks.org or call 319.234.4567

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah

Exhibitions:

National Exhibition of Folk Art in the Norwegian Tradition

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum's annual *National Exhibition of Folk Art in the Norwegian Tradition* is the Museum's major summer show and will be on view in the galleries on the third floor of the Museum's Main Building from June 7 to July 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, with Museum admission fee. There will be free admission all day July 5 for Free First Thursdays, sponsored by Decorah Bank and Trust, Co. The exhibition is sponsored by the 2011 event "Deck the Ta-

bles—Celebrate the Seasons," with special thanks to the Deck the Tables committee.

The judged exhibition includes knife-making, rosemaling (Norwegian decorative painting), weaving, and woodworking, all by contemporary American artists working in the Norwegian tradition. The judging occurs in conjunction with Decorah's Nordic Fest celebration, the last full weekend of July, and winners are announced at that time. Judges award Blue, Red, and White Ribbons representing points that accumulate over successive exhibitions toward a Gold Medal. Judges also present Honorable Mention and Best of Show Awards. Visitors are invited to vote for People's Choice Awards. Gold Medalists cannot compete for ribbons, but can compete for Best of Show Awards and People's Choice Awards. Many of the pieces in the exhibition are for sale by silent auction.

Michigan

▪ *Submitted by Robin Goodman* ▪

Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinaw Island

News:

Work was recently completed on the temporary exhibition, *Grand Hotel: The Art of Hospitality*, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of the summer resort. The exhibition will be on display until October 7, 2012 in the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum on Mackinac Island.

We have also completed an updated exhibition in the U.S. Quartermaster's Storehouse at Fort Mackinac. This exhibition replaces one that was outdated and inaccurate. The park is helping to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 with a new video about the 1814 Battle for Mackinac Island and we will have events taking place Tuesday July 17, 2012 to mark the anniversary of the British

capture of Fort Mackinac and Mackinac Island.



Progress is being made on the reconstruction of the South Southwest Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac. Archaeological excavation was completed in this area a few years ago and funding was obtained to reconstruct the building. Once it is completed next spring it will be the largest building inside the fort. It will house a movie theater/classroom, exhibitions on the 1763 Attack during Pontiac's Re-

bellion and the French influence at the fort, and will also have washrooms and storage space.

This summer two interns are assisting with the inventory at our Mackinaw City sites. We will also be working at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park to set up a newly created storage area for our maritime and large object collection. Additionally, we plan to take some field trips to other local museums and historic sites. There are many activities going on this summer so if you are up this way, be sure to stop by!

Flint Institute of Arts, Flint

Exhibitions:

The Golden Age of Painting, 1600-1800, from the Speed Art Museum

May 5 to August 19, 2012

Tremendous changes swept Europe between 1600 and 1800, the years in which the art in this exhibition was produced. Religious upheavals changed the way people thought about and utilized art. Trade routes to faraway lands, such as China and India, became more established, ensuring a steady stream of



exotic goods for European consumers. Advances in the sciences transformed long-held views on the way the universe worked and the place of humans within that universe. Technical aspects of art making were honed and codified, as art academies grew in number and power.

These exciting times resulted in a golden age of European painting. The number of artists and the number of art collectors grew exponentially during this period, as the fine arts reached an increasingly wider audience.

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn

Dutch 1606 - 1669

Portrait of a Forty-Year Old Woman, Possibly Marretje

Cornelisdr. van Grotewal

Oil on Panel, 1634

27 7/16 x 22 inches

Collection of the Speed Art Museum, Purchased with funds contributed by individuals, corporations and the entire community of Louisville, as well as the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1977.16

Adélaïde Labille-Guiard
French 1749 - 1803
Portrait of Madame Adélaïde
Oil on Canvas, ca. 1787
107 3/4 x 73 3/4 inches
Collection of the Speed Art Museum,
gift of Mrs. Berry V. Stoll, 1982.21



The Golden Age of Painting features art from this remarkable era, with examples by Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony Van Dyck, Rembrandt van Rijn, Jacob van Ruisdael, William Hogarth, Thomas Gainsborough, and Pompeo Batoni. Highlighting work from Italy, France, Spain, Flanders, The Netherlands, Germany, and England, this exhibition illustrates how the changes in religion and science, coupled with the economic growth that swept Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, gave way to a period of prolific artistic creation.

Comprising the major genres of painting that were popular at this time—portraits, religious paintings, landscapes, scenes of everyday life, still lifes, and interpretations of classical antiquity—*The Golden Age of Painting* brings to light both the people and the objects that made the two centuries between 1600 and 1800 such a rich cultural age.

The Golden Age of Painting, 1600-1800, from the Speed Art Museum has been organized by the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

Abstract Expressionism: Then and Now

May 5 to August 19, 2012

Drawing on works in the FIA permanent collection, along with important loans from regional collections, this exhibition surveys the American art movement Abstract Expressionism from its origins in the postwar period to the latest developments in the 21st century. The Abstract Expres-

sionists, a group of artist who emerged in New York City in the 1950s, broke with the European painting tradition by creating canvases that did not represent recognizable subjects or familiar themes of religion or history. Artists as diverse as Robert Motherwell, Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, and Lee Krasner created works in the mid-20th century that were characterized by powerfully expressive techniques, emphasizing the individual's experience of the world. Each canvas is completely unique and unable to be re-created, with each viewer experiencing something different when looking at them.

Artists from subsequent generations sought to not only build on what the Abstract Expressionists achieved, but to add to the dialogue. Artists such as Larry Poons, Robert Good-nough, and Jules Olitski continued experimentation with texture and color to maximize the medium's emotional and expressive potential. Third-wave Abstract Expressionist painters, including Roy Lerner, Stanley Boxer, and Joseph Drapell, also built on the earlier movement, using paints that they invented through working with Golden Paints, developing new techniques and forms of expression. These

Lee Krasner
American, 1908-1984
Happy Lady
Oil on Cotton Duck, 1963
1978.59



painters, known as the “New, New Painters,” share a common interest in high-key color and textured surfaces of acrylic gels. The advancements made in different types of acrylic paint enabled these artists to produce paintings where color is used structurally, as well as expressively, creating a sculptural effect.

Abstract Expressionism: Then and Now was organized by the Flint Institute of Arts, featuring more than 40 works, including loans from the Detroit Institute of Arts, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago.

The Epic and the Intimate: French Drawings from the John D. Reilly Collection at the Snite Museum of Art

May 5 to July 29, 2012

This exhibition, including works by Simon Vouet, Antoine Watteau, François Boucher, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, and Jacques-Louis David, illustrates the history of French drawing from before the foundation of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture in 1648, through the French Revolution of 1789. The drawings offer an opportunity to explore the range of media employed, including chalk, colored chalks, ink, and crayon; a variety of favored subjects, such as narrative composi-



François Verdier

French 1651 - 1730

The Ascension

Chalk on Paper, n.d.

9 5/8 x 8 1/8 inches

Collection of the Snite Museum of Art, on extended loan as a promised gift from Mr. John D. Reilly '63, L1988.010.031

tions, portraits, landscapes, and genre scenes; and types of drawings from figure and drapery studies, quick sketches of initial ideas to complex, multi-figured, highly developed, compositional “machines.”

Organized by the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame.



Charles de la Fosse

French 1636 - 1716

The Sleeping Rinaldo

Chalk on Paper, 1686

10 1/2 x 14 5/8 inches

Collection of the Snite Museum of Art, gift of Mr. John D. Reilly '63, 2004.053.013

News:

The FIA is pleased to announce a partnership with the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame for a collections exchange. While *The Epic and the Intimate* exhibition is on view, the FIA will send 8 of its best Im-

pressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, including Mary Cassatt's *Lydia at a Tapestry Frame* to the Snite for the exhibition *Cassatt and Beyond: Paintings from the Flint Institute of Arts* (June 24–September 23, 2012).

Minnesota

▪ Submitted by Jackie Hoff ▪

Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul News:

The collections staff has been working on a wide variety of projects, from the traveling show *Pirates*, to working with our exhibit department on some upcoming exhibitions they are creating for other museums as well as working a new show that will open here next summer. We continue to work on the digitization project and look for more funding opportunities as they arise. We also just received an IMLS grant to survey our collections – YIP-PEE!

It was great to see so many folks at the recent American Association of Museums (AAM) Annual Conference here in the Twin Cities. I was able to bring some folks over to show them our storage area and labs and also just sit and catch up with old friends!



Two happy registrars, October 1, 2011.
Left: Karen Duncan Right: Laura Muessig



Jackie Hoff spent the day in this cave along with 7 other colleagues from SMM, as well as two other museums in the US. Guess where we all were.....

I know that I can speak for many of the museums here in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area by saying –thanks for coming– we loved showing you our great museums, fabulous foodie places, and all the weather you can pack into a few days here in the spring.....

Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis News:

The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota threw open its doors on October 1, 2011 for a Welcome Back gala event after a year's closure, during which time five new galleries were built and many updates to the existing building took place. The addition



All registrars, all the time!

was designed by the same architects as the original 1993 building, Frank Gehry and Edwin Chan.

Wondering why we don't do it more often, registrars from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts joined Weisman colleagues for lunch and a tour of the new Weisman galleries.

Ohio

▪ Submitted by Laura Henderson ▪

Miami University Art Museum, Oxford
Exhibitions:

The 1970s: An Eclectic Art Invasion
May 25 to July 21, 2012

Curated by students in Professor Pepper Stetler's *ART498: Capstone Seminar in Art and Architecture History*, this exhibition highlights the proliferation of artistic movements and styles that defined the international art world of the 1970s. The exhibition features photographs, prints, paintings, and sculpture by influential artists such as Vito Acconci, Buckminster Fuller, Robert Motherwell, Louise Nevelson, Claes Oldenburg, James Rosenquist, and Frank Stella.

Talawanda High School Art Show
May 25 to July 21, 2012

This annual showing of art produced by high school students will help promote local arts and further develop stronger ties to the public. Each subsequent summer show will highlight a different school within local districts on a rotating basis. Works include drawings, paintings, ceramics and more by Talawanda High School students.

Art Museum Staff Picks
June 12 to July 22, 2012

This show highlights the Museum staff's favorite pieces in the permanent collection at the Miami University Art Museum.



Miami University Art Museum *Staff Picks* exhibition:
Larry Rivers, American (1923-2002), *Entwined Figures*
(Rose), 1985; Mixed Media; Gift of James H. and
Frances R. Allen

University Photographers Association of America (UPPA) Annual Print Competition
June 14 to July 3, 2012

In support of Scott Kissell, Jeff Sabo, and Miami University's IT Services, Gallery III is devoted to the display of the 2012 University

Photographers Association of America's Annual Print Competition. This judged competition brings together approximately 275 photographs from university and college photographers from across the country. The Annual Print Competition is used to determine the Photographer of the Year from the UPAA membership. Those attending the symposium judge each print. This is UPAA's premier competition, drawing on the photographer's skills in creativity, presentation and technical skills.

Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland

News:

History Center Transformation Underway

Western Reserve Historical Society has joined many of its neighbors in and around University Circle with construction trailers, work crews, and heavy equipment on site. After years of planning, financial stabilization, and persistence, major renovations to the WRHS History Center officially began in February. The \$4 million project is slated for completion in late 2012. The result will be a major transformation of the History Center. Visitors will experience new Crawford, Reinberger, and East Boulevard galleries that are more open, brighter and welcoming with new exhibitions that capture the breadth of WRHS collections.

The WRHS History Center transformation begins with the facility's two entry galleries, Reinberger and East Boulevard, and the main level Crawford Auto Aviation Collection Gallery. Once renovations to those areas are completed in late 2012, we will begin installing new exhibitions in the main level gal-

leries featuring the Crawford Collection enhanced by the inclusion of related artifacts and documents from other WRHS collections.

The entire project is guided by *WRHS 150*, our new strategic plan to improve WRHS visibility, increase accessibility of WRHS collections, and stabilize our finances.

A separate, but related project of Cleveland's Euclid Beach Park Carousel Society is the construction of a glass pavilion intended to house the iconic Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel.

Exhibitions:

Tying the Knot: Cleveland Wedding Fashions, 1830-1980

June 22, 2012 to February 14, 2013

Drawn exclusively from the WRHS extensive Costume and Textile Collection, *Tying the Knot* highlights wedding dresses worn by Cleveland brides over 150 year time span. Elaborate confections from the 1800s, such as the 1879 dress designed for Euclid Avenue socialite, Alice Wade Everett, by famed designer Charles Frederick Worth, will be featured along with stylish examples from the 20th century. In addition to the wedding dresses, this exhibition will include examples from the wardrobe, or trousseau, of dresses and lingerie that brides traditionally brought to their marriages. Wedding photographs, invitations, gifts and a display of wedding vests worn by grooms, the essential but often overshadowed members of the wedding party, will complete the exhibition.



Architect's rendering, History Center Expansion, WRHS

Bedford Historical Society, Bedford News:

Bedford Historical Society has released a new history book, published by Arcadia Press, titled *Bedford and Bedford Township, Ohio*.

Exhibitions:

A Life of Creativity, works by Roger M. Fuhrmeyer, at the Town Hall Museum.

For over 50 years, Roger Fuhrmeyer has created works in pastel, oil, watercolor, pencil and sculpture. The Town Hall Museum has been the beneficiary of several of his works, including beautiful murals.

The exhibition encompasses portions of his early works, sketches from his travels abroad, sketches from his years at Chautauqua and commissioned works from private collections. It was a challenge for a general history museum to create space for over 60 works of hanging art plus sculptural works and woodcarvings, but the exhibition has been well received.

The Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati

Exhibitions:

Old Masters to Impressionists: Three Centuries of French Painting from the Wadsworth Atheneum

May 18, 2012 to September 16, 2012



François Boucher (French, 1703-1770)

The Egg Seller, c. 1734-35

Oil on Canvas;

The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1977.1

This exhibition can be best described as a selection of masterworks from the permanent collection of the Wadsworth Atheneum. One could go further and say that the works depict beauty, elegance and a fair amount of romance. There is a great deal of variety represented in the paintings that comprise the exhibition. The show covers three centuries, beginning with the 1600's and ending with the 1900's. Artists represented include major figures such as Ingres, Claude Lorrain, Simon Vouet, Louis-Rolland Trinquesse, François Boucher, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro and Vincent van Gogh. The works are captivating and extraordinarily beautiful. The Museum is open to the public Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Louis-Rolland Trinquesse (French, 1745-c. 1800)

An Elegant Interior with Two Ladies and a Gentleman, 1776

Oil on Canvas;

The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 2006.20.1

Wisconsin

▪ Submitted by Elizabeth Frozena ▪

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison

Exhibitions:

Summer Breeze: The Fan in Japanese

July 7–September 9, 2012

Leslie and Johanna Garfield Gallery

In nineteenth-century Japan the fan not only provided relief from the oppressive heat, it became a fashionable representation of summer. In theaters, fans were associated with dramatic moments; on the streets people carried fans bearing the marks of favorite actors. The fan also had a special place in prints—artists depicted them in many scenes, and some prints were also designed to be cut and fit onto a standard bamboo fan framework. Drawn from the Chazen's Van Vleck Collection, this exhibition offers a refreshing look at an icon.



Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797–1858

A Bijin Holding a Hairpin,

from the series *Goose-borne Tidings*, 1853

Color Woodcut, 9 1/4 x 11 5/8 in.

John H. Van Vleck Endowment Fund purchase, 1999.111



Offering of the Angels: Paintings and Tapestries from the Uffizi Gallery

August 24–November 25, 2012

Pleasant T. Rowland Galleries

This exhibition of 45 rarely seen paintings and tapestries from the renowned Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, includes works by Italian Renaissance and Baroque masters such as Sandro Botticelli, Lorenzo Monaco, Jacopo Tintoretto, and Titian. The exhibition highlights the theme of the Eucharist in art from the Creation of Adam and Eve to the Resurrection.

Alessandro Di Mariano Filipepi

known as Sandro Botticelli (and Nineteenth-Century Restorer),
1445–1510

The Madonna and Child ("Madonna of the Loggia"),

ca. 1466–1467,

Oil on Panel

Racine Art Museum, Racine

Exhibitions:

Beth Van Hoesen: The Observant Eye

The Racine Art Museum is pleased to present Beth Van Hoesen: The Observant Eye featuring drawings, paintings, intaglio prints, and lithographs by this nationally known artist. Open May 20 through September 9, this traveling exhibition chronicles decades of her realistic images of animals, floral studies, figure drawings, and human portraits. Unique to RAM, this show combines pieces on loan with recent gifts to the Museum that support the development of an archive of Van Hoesen prints, color proofs, preparatory studies, and copper plates.

While not the only subject included in this exhibition, Van Hoesen's animal prints are particularly engaging and form a significant portion of the artist's body of work. Often isolating a single animal on a solid background, she offers an image that conveys depth and intensity. As RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections, Bruce W. Pepich describes: "These are not scientific studies as much as they are portraits...She does not create anthropomorphic renditions in which she projects personal traits onto these figures. Instead, through hours of careful and clear observations of cats, dogs, birds, and a host of other beasts large and small, she manages to locate the essence of each that communicates a sense of the animal's individuality."

The exhibition contains 147 works by the artist of which 74 are works the E. Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen Adams Trust has re-

cently presented to the Racine Art Museum. With the help of the Trust, as well as Anne Kohs and Associates, the Museum acquired 58 color proofs, preparatory studies, and copper plates among the pieces. Not only does this gift strengthen RAM's holdings of works on paper, it affords the opportunity for a unique, in-depth look at an artist's process. The exhibition offers numerous examples of Van Hoesen's work where the life of a print from start-to-finish may be traced through multiple stages and various media. RAM is the only venue on the exhibition's tour that will showcase these study materials.



The "old" anthropology storage at Oshkosh Public Museum

Oshkosh Public Museum, Oshkosh

News:

The Oshkosh Public Museum dramatically improved storage for its anthropology collection in March of this year with the installation of a new Montel Mechanical Mobilex System and a separate Viking museum cabinet. The project was funded by Capital Improvement Funds. Museum staff worked with ARTistic Storage in the design and installation of the



The NEW anthropology storage at Oshkosh Public Museum

new customized system which greatly enhances artifact preservation and access to the collection.

It was a long awaited pleasure to remove artifacts from storage boxes and unstack, unwrap and unfold them before placing them into their new trays or onto shelves.



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